

## Cross-Connections and Backflow Prevention

A **cross connection** is any connection that goes from potable (drinkable) water to a non-potable (non-drinkable) water source.

These are dangerous and can contaminate your water.

Cross connections may occur by connecting a water hose to a faucet and leaving the hose submerged in a sink, water trough, swimming pool, or any other water source that contains water that is considered non-potable (non-drinkable for human consumption). They can also occur when a water softener or lawn irrigation system is improperly installed.



When the water supply system experiences increased or decreased pressure (such as when the lines are being flushed, a repair is being made, or there is a break in the water line), **backflow** from the non-potable source can contaminate the potable water source.

To avoid bacteria, sewage, pesticides, and other dangerous contaminants from entering your water system, it is important to attach a **vacuum breaker** to any exterior hose bibb/faucet where you plan to leave a water hose connected. These items may be purchased at most hardware stores.

Vacuum breakers are also called backflow preventers.

They typically cost under \$10.00.



**If you have any questions, please contact South Jasper County WSC at (409) 994-3723.**